

Exposition

A. Content:

This session is designed to study the fundamental principles of biblical interpretation and proper exegesis of Scripture. The historical-grammatical-contextual interpretation is presented as the proper method of interpreting Scripture.

B. Objectives:

1. That the student might become aware with the principles of interpretation and the application of those principles to the Scriptures so that the student may come to an understanding of the true meaning of any portion of the Word of God.
2. That the student might be able to avoid pitfalls suffered by Christians in the past in regard to the misinterpreting of the Scriptures.

C. Outline:

1. Exposition:

- a. Definition - Exposition is the detailed _____
the logical _____, and the practical _____
of a passage of Scripture.
- b. Tools of the Mind:
 - (1) The Law of Grammatical Structure - Every verse must be understood in the light of its sentence _____, each _____ and _____ given its intended purpose.
 - (2) The Law of Surrounding Context - Every verse must be interpreted in the light of what goes _____ and what _____ after.
 - (3) The Law of Historical Setting - Every verse must be interpreted in the light of the _____ that it was written.
 - (4) The Law of Central Emphasis - Every verse must be interpreted in the light of the _____ for the writing of the book.
 - (5) The Law of Word Meaning - Every word must be understood in the light of its _____ at the time of the writing.

c. Tools of the Spirit:

- (1) Prayer - Never try to interpret God's Word without asking for _____ wisdom.
- (2) Holy Spirit - Reliance upon the Holy Spirit is a _____ in understanding God's Word.
- (3) Purity - You must forsake _____ in order to understand God's Word.
- (4) Obedience - You must be willing to _____ the Word of God before he can understand it.

d. Physical Tools:

- (1) Bible
- (2) Bible _____
- (3) Bible _____
- (4) Word Study Books
- (5) Commentaries
- (6) Bible Background Books
- (7) Paper and Pen

2. Steps in Good Biblical Exposition

- a. Read the passage at least twice without drawing any _____.
- b. Read the passage a third time noting your _____ on a piece of paper. Observation relates to the question of what does a particular passage _____. Observation is the art of seeing what is there. What are we looking for in this process?
 - (1) specific words
 - (2) to discover who the recipients were
 - (3) background of the readers
 - (4) specific literary form
 - (5) comparisons
 - (6) contrasts
 - (7) repeated words
 - (8) cause and effects

- (9) commands
- (10) verbs and its tenses; prepositions
- (11) to see if a noun or pronoun is singular or plural; etc.

c. Read the passage a fourth time in order to interpret. Interpretation relates to the question of what the particular passage _____ to the relevant individuals within the particular context. Many failures in interpretation occur because of the failure to correctly apply the following principles:

(1) The Law of Interpretation and Application:

It states that every passage of Scripture has but one interpretation, it may have many _____.

Note: Interpretation means to give the sense or meaning of a passage of Scripture. Application, on the other hand, adapts a particular truth to another situation.

(2) The Law of Context:

It refers to the words, phrases and sentences which are linked so that each passage is _____ by what immediately proceeds or follows. The word context is derived from the Latin *con* _____ and *textus* _____, thus context is to _____.

Note: The use of questions can aid in this process. Ask who, what, how, when, where, and why.

- 1a. Who or what is involved?
- 2a. How is this accomplished?
- 3a. When is this accomplished?
- 4a. Where is this accomplished?
- 5a. What does this term mean?
- 6a. How does this prepare for what follows?

d. Read the passage a fifth time in order to integrate the observations and interpretations into a manner to _____ those truths in our daily lives. Application relates to lifting biblical truths out of its biblical context

and implementing them in practice.

Note: The following questions can help the process –

- (1) What does this passage mean to me today?
- (2) How could this truth change my life?
- (3) What must I do in order to accomplish goal?
- (4) When should I begin?